GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1215
ANSWERED ON:02.03.2000
FIRING ON INDO-PAK BORDERS
ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY;M.V.CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Pak, India agree to end unprovoked firing" as reported in 'Statesman' dated November 25, 1999;

(b) if so, whether any agreement with Pak authorities was held in the recent past to have a complete halt to unprovoked firings along the international border in J&K sector;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the number of times when unprovoked firings noticed after the said agreement? A N S W E R

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) & (c): During the bi-annual meeting between BSF and Pak Rangers held at Lahore in November, 1998, an agreement to halt unprovoked firing along the International Border in Jammu sector was made which was effectively implemented with effect from 23rd November, 1998. Many villagers near the border who had fled to other areas returned to their villages. But Pakistan again started this unprovoked firing, perhaps, in the wake of the Kargil conflict and this firing continued till November 1999 when the bi-annual meeting between BSF and Pak Rangers was held again at Lahore.This point was discussed in this meeting and it was agreed that unprovoked firing would not take place.

(d) Unprovoked firing from Pakistan continues. Effective and appropriate retaliatory fire is brought down on the Pakistani troops by our troops.